

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 10. In Figure 10, a lead line for element 80 has been added to indicate the spring.

REMARKS

This application has been amended to place the application in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

A replacement drawing is submitted for Figure 10 adding a lead line for element 80 to indicate the spring. The above-noted change is the only change and is believed not to introduce new matter.

As to the further drawings objections noted in the Official Action, new claim 18 and new claim 32 which correspond to claims 1 and 17, respectively, do not include the features objected to in the drawings. As to elements K2' and K2'', the specification is amended to provide that these elements are not illustrated. Accordingly, the replacement drawing and specification changes are believed to address the drawing objections noted in the Official Action.

As to the objection to the abstract, a substitute Abstract of the Disclosure was provided with the Preliminary Amendment of September 10, 2003. A copy of the abstract submitted on that date and postcard receipt evidencing the same is submitted herewith. The amendment of the abstract on that date is believed to address the objection noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1-17 were previously pending in the application. Claims 1-17 are cancelled and replaced with new claims 18-33.

The new claims are believed to address the claims objections and 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejections noted in the Official Action.

Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 13 and 16 were rejected as unpatentable over ROLLWANDE et al. DE 3248498 in view of BOYLES 3,163,033. Claim 3 is rejected with respect to claim 1 and further in view of WESTERMAN 4,080,757. Claims 11 and 14 are rejected with respect to claim 1 and further in view of ROBINSON 2,048,377. Claim 15 is rejected with respect to claim 1 and further in view of COLLINS 2,039,296. Claim 17 is rejected with respect to claim 1 and further in view of DAUTRICK 1,880,850.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested because the references do not disclose or suggest a small rolling wheel mounted on a hollow axis and coaxial to a latch. The references also fail to teach that the latch is intended to slide within the bore of the hollow axle and that a support member includes a partially cylindrical seat in which the hollow axle is mounted as recited in new claim 18.

The Official Action offers element 9 of ROLLWANDE as a hollow axle. However, as seen in Figures 1 and 3 of ROLLWANDE, the hollow axle 9 is not mounted within a partially cylindrical seat of the support member 4.

Rather, element 9 is a bearing "busche 9" (see page 4, second full paragraph of ROLLWANDE) that enables the wheel to rotate. The wheel 6 is directly mounted on the bolt 5 by the

bearing 9. Accordingly, in ROLLWANDE, when the bolt 5 is moved for locking or unlocking, the movement of the bolt is transmitted to the wheel 6 such that the wheel 6 abuts one of the side walls of the guide. Such movement of wheel 6 against the sides will cause undesired wear to the wheel, which is avoided by the wheel/axle/seal assembly as recited in claim 18.

BOYLES is only cited for a plurality of rollers 3. BOYLES does not teach or suggest that a small rolling wheel is mounted on a hollow pivot or axle which in turn is mounted within a partially cylindrical seat of a support member.

WESTERMAN is only cited for the teaching of a hollow axle that serves as a guide member for a latch. WESTERMAN neither teaches a rolling wheel mounted on the axle nor that the axle is within a support member as recited in new claim 18.

ROBINSON is only cited for the teaching of a latch connected to a beam lever. ROBINSON does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 18.

COLLINS is only cited for the teaching of a latch connected to a cable. COLLINS does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 18.

DAUTRICK is only cited for the teaching of a motor. DAUTRICK does not teach or suggest what is recited in claim 18.

The above-noted features are missing from each of the references, are absent from the combination and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

New claims 19-32 depend from claim 18 and further define the invention and are also believed patentable over the cited prior art.

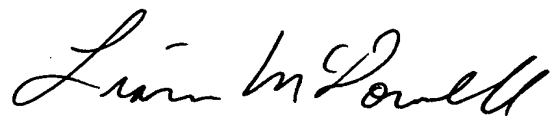
New claim 33 also includes a rolling wheel rotatably mounted on a hollow axle that is within a cylindrical seat. The analysis above regarding claim 18 is equally applicable to claim 33.

In view of the present amendment and the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application has been placed in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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APPENDIX:

The Appendix includes the following items:

- a Replacement Sheet for Figure 10 of the drawings
- copy of the abstract submitted on September 10, 2003 and postcard receipt evidencing the same